

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated October 27, 2005. Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Various claims have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

First of all, Applicant notes with appreciation that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggests alternative language for page 8 of the originally filed specification. The foregoing amendment to the specification adopts the wording suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to include reference numerals S34 and S35 as referred to in the specification. The foregoing amendment to the specification removes these particular numerals. A corrected drawing sheet is therefore not necessary since the specification no longer refers to the reference numbers at issue. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 and 11-21 are objected to based on various informalities set out on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. With one exception, Applicant has adopted the revised claim language suggested by the Examiner. With regard to claims 18 and 20, the Examiner suggested changing "hole time information" to "current hold time information." It is believed that what was meant was the changing of "current hold time information" to "hold time information," and these claims have been modified accordingly. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2-5 and 11-21 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. On pages 4 and 5 of the Action, the Examiner provides suggested wording for these claims. The foregoing claim amendments adopt the Examiner's suggested wording. Claims 18 and 20 have additionally been amended so that they clearly refer to the appropriate "evaluating" steps in these claims. Applicant submits that the claims as currently amended are indeed definite, and respectfully requests that the rejection to claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Applicant further notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph. Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments comply with this request, and therefore believes that these claims are allowable.

Lastly, Applicant acknowledges the other references made of record and not relied upon in the Office Action, but submits that the pertinence of the various teachings of these references is limited with regard to the present invention.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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